

19 May 1954

DEMAND ON NATURAL RUBBER

1. Today it is estimated that 50 to 60 percent of the Bloc demand including that of China is met by synthetic rubber produced in the European bloc. The balance is met largely by natural rubber imports.

2. In 1952 the Bloc countries, including China, imported about 200,000 tons of natural rubber. This was a peak year. Imports for 1953 were about 40,000 tons less.

3. Communist China's imports are largely from Ceylon (57,000 out of 66,000 tons total in 1953). A secret agreement provides that 45 percent of the Ceylon rubber will be reshipped to USSR. There may have been some additional shipments from small-holders in Indonesia and from Sarawak.

Rubber Situation in Bloc - 1953

	<u>USSR and S.E. Satellites</u>	<u>Communist China</u>
	<u>Metric Tons</u>	<u>Metric Tons</u>
Production		
Natural Rubber	3,000	600
Synthetic Rubber	267,000	Nil
Reclaimed Rubber	84,000	5,000
Imports of Natural	95,000*	66,000
Total Available	349,000	71,600
Estimated Consumption	465,000	35,000
Accumulated Stockpiles	275,000	Nil

* Excluding reshipments of roughly 30,000 tons from China.

ATTACHMENT - ^{TS}No. 70741 - 19 May 1954 - BRIEF ON PETROLEUM

See opposite flap.